IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION



JAYLA ALLEN, DAMON JOHNSON,	§	
RAUL SANCHEZ, TREASURE SMITH,	§	
and THE PANTHER PARTY,	§	
Plaintiffs,	§	
	§	
v.	§	
	§ Civil Action No. 4:18-CV-3985	
WALLER COUNTY TEXAS; THE	§	
WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	§	
COURT; JUDGE CARBETT "TREY" J.	§	
DUHON III, in his official capacity as the	§	
Waller County Judge; and CHRISTY A.	§	
EASON, in her official capacity as the	§	
Waller County Elections Administrator,	Š	
Defendants.	§	

PLAINTIFF TREASURE SMITH'S RESPONSE AND OBJECTIONS TO DEFENDANT WALLER COUNTY'S FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES

Plaintiff Treasure Smith ("Plaintiff") responds to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories (the "Interrogatories") as follows:

GENERAL OBJECTIONS

- 1. Plaintiff objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they seek information protected by the attorney-client privilege, work-product doctrine, or any other applicable privilege. If any privileged documents are inadvertently produced, Plaintiff maintains her right to claim the privilege as to those documents and does not waive her right to claim that privilege as to any other documents.
- 2. Plaintiff objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they are overly broad, unduly burdensome, vague, ambiguous, irrelevant, not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of

admissible evidence, and/or unlimited in time or scope.

- 3. Plaintiff objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they seek documents or information that is not currently in her possession, custody, or control.
- 4. Plaintiff objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they call for documents or information that are already in Defendant Waller County's or other Defendants' possession, custody, or control, or are otherwise publicly available to Defendants.
- 5. Plaintiff objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they impose any requirements or discovery obligations other than those specified in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Scheduling Order, and/or related agreements.
- 6. Plaintiff objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they seek expert information that is not discoverable from Plaintiff individually under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 7. Plaintiff objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they seek confidential, proprietary business information, and/or information protected by any privacy and/or confidentiality laws, provisions, and/or regulations. If any confidential or proprietary information is produced without an appropriate designation, Plaintiff reserves the right to designate any information as confidential.
- 8. Plaintiff objects to Defendants' Definitions and Instructions to the extent that they request documents or information that would be protected from discovery by the attorney-client privilege, attorney work product doctrine, and/or any other applicable privilege.
- 9. Plaintiff objects to Defendants' definitions of "documents," "communication," and "identify" as being vague, ambiguous, unduly overbroad, and confusing.
- 10. Plaintiff objects to the extent that any of the Interrogatories seek information that is protected by the right to freely associate under the First Amendment, is confidential, or otherwise is protected, or is neither relevant nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible

evidence in this action.

- 11. Plaintiff has attempted in good faith to fully answer Defendants' Interrogatories. The answers are based on information currently available after a reasonable search. Pursuant to Federal Rule 26, Plaintiff reserves the right to alter or supplement her responses as additional documents become available and in light of facts not now known, the relevance to the subject matter or the relationship to admissible evidence of which has not yet been ascertained but may subsequently be discovered.
- 12. By answering these Interrogatories, Plaintiff does not concede the relevance or materiality of the information requested, nor of the subject matter to which the interrogatory refers. Rather, the responses are made expressly subject to, and without in any way waiving or intending to waive any question or objection as to the competency, relevancy, privilege, or admissibility as evidence, of any of the matters referred to in the responses.
- 13. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference each of the above objections into each response set forth below, and all the responses below are subject to the foregoing "General Objections." These General Objections will not necessarily be repeated or referred to in the responses to the individual Interrogatories. The presence or absence of specific reference to one or more of the General Objections is not at any point intended to waive, withdraw, or abandon any of the General Objections.

RESPONSES TO INTERROGATORIES

INTERROGATORY NO. 1

Identify each person who participated in any way in answering this first set of interrogatories, or supplied any documents or information used in answering these interrogatories.

ANSWER TO NO. 1

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 1 to the extent that it seeks information that is neither relevant to the issues in this dispute nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Plaintiff further objects to Interrogatory No. 1 to the extent it falls outside the scope of this litigation, and to the extent that it seeks to impose obligations on Plaintiff in excess of those set forth in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

In addition, Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 1 to the extent that it seeks the disclosure of information protected by any privilege or immunity, including attorney-client privilege, attorney work product protection, common interest privilege, or any other privilege, immunity, principle, doctrine, or rule of confidentiality. If any protected information or material is disclosed, such disclosure is not intentional and shall not be deemed a waiver of any privilege or protection.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff identifies the following individuals: Treasure Smith and Plaintiff's counsel.

INTERROGATORY NO. 2

Identify all persons or entities that Plaintiff believes have documents, information, or other materials relevant to this suit, and identify the documents, information, or other materials they possess.

ANSWER TO NO. 2

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 2 to the extent that it seeks to impose obligations on Plaintiff in excess of those set forth in the Federal Rules and the Local Rules of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Plaintiff further objects to this Interrogatory as unreasonable and unduly burdensome to the extent it seeks the identity of all individuals who may have knowledge about the facts alleged in Plaintiffs' Complaint. Plaintiff further objects to this request to the extent that it is impossible for Plaintiff to identify information responsive to this request that other individuals may possess. Plaintiff also objects to Interrogatory No. 2 because it is not limited to any reasonable time period and thus is vague, ambiguous, overly broad, and unduly burdensome given the lengthy history of voting discrimination and early voting issues in Waller County.

In addition, Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 2 to the extent that it seeks information protected from disclosure by any privilege or immunity, including attorney-client privilege, attorney work product protection, common interest privilege, or any other privilege, immunity, principle, doctrine, or rule of confidentiality. If any protected information or material is disclosed,

such disclosure is not intentional and shall not be deemed a waiver of any privilege or protection.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff responds that information responsive to Interrogatory No. 2 will be provided in Plaintiffs' First Supplemented Initial Disclosures, which Plaintiff's counsel will disclose to Defendants.

INTERROGATORY NO. 3

Please identify each address at which you have resided since turning eighteen (18) years of age. Your answer should include the physical address of the residence and the timeframe for which you resided at the residence.

ANSWER TO NO. 3

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 3 to the extent that it seeks information that is neither relevant to the issues in this dispute nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general objections, Plaintiff identifies the following information in response to Interrogatory No. 3:

- 16015 Beckbridge Drive, Houston, TX 77053
 - o September 2016 to August 2017
- 100 University Drive, Building 45, Prairie View, TX 77446
 - o September 2017 to May 2018
- From June to July 2018, Plaintiff lived overseas through a study abroad program
- 2314 Richards Road, Building 5, 5304, Prairie View, TX 77446
 - o September 2018 to Present

INTERROGATORY NO. 4

Please state each jurisdiction in which you have been registered to vote since turning eighteen (18) years of age. Your answer should include the approximate date of registration.

ANSWER TO NO. 4

Plaintiffs objects to Interrogatory No. 4 on the grounds that the information sought is likely already within Defendants' possession through at least Waller County's Elections Office and/or the Texas Secretary of State.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff provides the following information in response to Interrogatory No. 4. Since turning eighteen (18) years of age, to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge and recollection, Plaintiff first registered to vote in Fort Bend County in 2016. Then, to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge and recollection, Plaintiff registered to vote in Waller County in 2017, and her registration remains active through the present.

INTERROGATORY NO. 5

Please identify each election, including primaries, in which you have voted since turning eighteen (18) years of age. Your answer should identify the particular election, the manner in which you cast your ballot, i.e., absentee, early-voting in person, or on election day, and the polling place at which you voted. For primaries, your answer should identify which primary you voted in.

ANSWER TO NO. 5

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 5 to the extent that it seeks information that is neither relevant to the issues in this dispute nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Plaintiff also objects to Interrogatory No. 5 on the grounds that it is overly broad and unduly burdensome. Plaintiffs further objects to Interrogatory No. 5 on the grounds that is likely already within Defendants' possession through at least Waller County's Elections Office and/or the Texas Secretary of State.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff provides the following information in response to Interrogatory No. 5. Since turning eighteen (18) years of age, to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge and recollection, Plaintiff voted in four elections: (1) the 2017 November General Election at the Memorial Student Center; (2) the 2018 March Primary Election at the Memorial Student Center; (3) the 2018 November General Election at the Memorial Student Center; and (4) the 2019 Prairie View City Council at Prairie View City Hall. For each election, to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge and recollection, Plaintiff voted in-person and cast a regular ballot.

INTERROGATORY NO. 6

Please state whether or not you own, or have owned, leased, or otherwise had access to, an automobile, motorcycle, moped, motorized scooter, bicycle, and or other form of personal transportation from 2016 through the present. Your answer should identify the time period for which you owned, leased, or otherwise had access to the identified vehicle.

ANSWER TO NO. 6

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general objections, Plaintiff provides the following information in response to Interrogatory No. 6. Plaintiff does not own, lease, or otherwise have access to an automobile and/or other form of personal transportation from 2016 to the present.

INTERROGATORY NO. 7

If you voted in the 2018 general election, please describe the manner in which you voted, including the date on which you voted, the polling location, the approximate time you at which went to the polling location to vote, the means of transportation you used to get to the polling location, the time it took you to cast a ballot at that polling location, and who, if anyone, went with you to the polling location.

ANSWER TO NO. 7

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 7 to the extent that it is in part duplicative of Interrogatory No. 5. Plaintiffs also object to Interrogatory No. 7 to the extent that it seeks such information as the "time it took" to cast a ballot as neither relevant to the issues in this dispute nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Plaintiff further objects to Interrogatory No. 7 on the grounds that it is in part likely already within Defendants' possession through at least Waller County's Elections Office and/or the Texas Secretary of State.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general objections, Plaintiff provides the following information in response to Interrogatory No. 7. To the best of Plaintiff's knowledge and recollection, Plaintiff walked to the Memorial Student Center from her housing and voted in person during the available early voting opportunities there in October 2018.

INTERROGATORY NO. 8

If you experienced any difficulties or impediments to early voting during the 2018 general election, please describe those difficulties or impediments in detail.

ANSWER TO NO. 8

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 8 because it is worded to require a legal conclusion and is predicated on legal definitions, conclusions, and arguments. Plaintiff also objects to this Interrogatory to the extent that it mischaracterizes Plaintiffs' claim in this lawsuit as being about difficulties or impediments to early voting during the 2018 general election. Plaintiff further objects to the extent that this Interrogatory is a premature interrogatory request that seeks a comprehensive identification of relevant facts before the close of discovery. *See* FED. R. CIV. P. 33(a)(2); *Wallace v. GEO Grp.*, Inc., No. 2:12-cv-2745, 2013 WL 6490320, at *3 (W.D. La. Dec. 10, 2013). Plaintiff also objects to Interrogatory No. 8 as it is unreasonably duplicative of Plaintiffs' expert-witness reports of Mr. Cooper, Dr. Flores, Dr. Joseph, and/or Dr. Stein, as well as Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint (ECF No. 49) and Plaintiffs' Motion and Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 53).

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff responds that, to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge and recollection, she experienced several difficulties and impediments to early voting during the 2018 general election. Because there was no early voting on PVAMU campus during the first week and limited days of early voting during the second week, Plaintiff had to re-arrange her limited schedule, which included being a full-time student, working a part-time job at the PVAMU Student Recreation Center, and participating in school-based commitments, to ultimately vote. As a result, Plaintiff diverted time and energy away from school-related courses and activities to vote during the limited early voting hours on campus.

INTERROGATORY NO. 9

Please state with specificity each factual basis for your contention that your right to vote was abridged or denied as a result of the early voting schedule in Waller County for the 2018 general election.

ANSWER TO NO. 9

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 9 because it is worded to require a legal conclusion and is predicated on legal definitions, conclusions, and arguments. Plaintiff further objects to the extent this is a premature interrogatory request that seeks a comprehensive identification of relevant facts before the close of discovery. *See* FED. R. CIV. P. 33(a)(2); *Wallace v. GEO Grp.*, Inc., No. 2:12-cv-2745, 2013 WL 6490320, at *3 (W.D. La. Dec. 10, 2013). Plaintiff also objects to Interrogatory No. 9 as it is unreasonably duplicative of Plaintiffs' expert-witness reports by Mr. Cooper, Dr. Flores, Dr. Joseph, and/or Dr. Stein, as well as Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint (ECF No. 49) and Plaintiffs' Motion and Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 53), which address this request and are currently in Defendants' possession.

INTERROGATORY NO. 10

Please state with specificity each factual basis for your contention that there was a lack of adequate early voting in the City of Prairie View and/or PVAMU during the 2018 general election.

ANSWER TO NO. 10

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 10 to the extent that it mischaracterizes Plaintiffs' claim in this lawsuit as being about the adequacy of early voting in the City of Prairie View and/or PVAMU during the 2018 general election. Plaintiff also objects to Interrogatory No. 10 insofar as it seeks information, such as the County's early voting plans for the November 2018 general election, which are already in the possession of Defendants. For the same reason, Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 10 insofar as it seeks information that is obtainable from some other source that is less burdensome or less expensive. Plaintiff also objects to Interrogatory No. 10 as it is unreasonably duplicative of Plaintiffs' expert-witness reports of Mr. Cooper, Dr. Flores, Dr. Joseph, and/or Dr. Stein, as well as Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint (ECF No. 49) and Plaintiffs' Motion and Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 53), which address this question and are currently in the possession of Defendants.

INTERROGATORY NO. 11

Please describe each instance in which you have been to the Waller County Community Center, including the specific activity or activities for which you went there, the approximate dates of the visits to the Community Center, and whether you walked or used other means of transportation to get there.

ANSWER TO NO. 11

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 11 to the extent that it is not limited to any reasonable time period as vague, ambiguous, overly broad, and unduly burdensome.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff provides the following information in response to Interrogatory No. 11. To the best of Plaintiff's knowledge and recollection, Plaintiff has never been to the Waller County Community Center.

INTERROGATORY NO. 12

If you contend that early voting hours during the first week of early voting provide a greater opportunity to cast a ballot than early voting hours the second week, please state with specificity each factual basis for that contention.

ANSWER TO NO. 12

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 12 because it erroneously sets forth a contention that Plaintiffs have not advanced in this case.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff responds that her answers to Interrogatory No. 12 are included in Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint (ECF No. 49) and Plaintiffs' Motion and Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 53). Plaintiff's response further supported by expertwitness reports by Mr. Cooper, Dr. Stein, Dr. Joseph, and/or Dr. Flores and the resources cited therein.

INTERROGATORY NO. 13

Please identify your school schedule for the fall semester of 2018, including the days, start time, and duration of each class or extracurricular or athletic activity in which you participated during that semester.

ANSWER TO NO. 13

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 13 to the extent the request is vague, ambiguous, overly broad, and unduly burdensome, including because daily schedules and the activities within them change and may not be reflected in a school schedule.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff responds to this Interrogatory by producing non-privileged documents concerning the Plaintiff's schedule for the fall semester of 2018 within her possession, custody, or control as Bates Stamped PLS000327-PLS000328.

Plaintiff also provides the following information in response to Interrogatory No. 13. To the best of Plaintiff's knowledge and recollection, Plaintiff's fall semester of 2018 extracurricular activities included:

- Member, Speech and Debate Team
 - o Committed approximately 15 hours per week during the fall 2018 semester
- Member, Panther Party
 - o Committed approximately 1 hour per week during the fall 2018 semester

INTERROGATORY NO. 14

Please describe any activities or efforts you undertook to advocate or petition for a greater number of early voting hours, prior to filing this lawsuit. Your answer should include, but is not limited to, identifying any communications you had with officials, employees, or representatives of Waller County or PVAMU regarding early voting in Prairie View, by specifying with whom you had such communications, the manner of communication (i.e., in-person, phone call, email, text message, etc...), the approximate date and time of each communication, and the substance of each communication.

ANSWER TO NO. 14

Plaintiff objects to Request No. 14 because it is not limited to any reasonable time period and thus is vague, ambiguous, overly broad, and unduly burdensome. Plaintiff further objects to the extent it seeks information that is no longer in the possession, custody, or control of Plaintiff. Plaintiff further objects to the extent that it seeks information already in the possession, custody, control, and/or knowledge of Defendant Waller County and its officials, employees, or representatives.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff provides the following information in response to Interrogatory No. 14. To the best of Plaintiff's knowledge and recollection, Plaintiff did not participate in efforts to advocate or petition for a greater number of early voting hours prior to filing this lawsuit.

INTERROGATORY NO. 15

Please identify any student groups, including fraternities or sororities, of which you have been a member since coming to PVAMU.

ANSWER TO NO. 15

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 15 to the extent that it seeks information that is neither relevant to the issues in this dispute nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Plaintiff further objects to the extent that it seeks information or disclosure of information impinging on Plaintiff's right of association, which is protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Plaintiff further objects to Request No. 15 to the extent that it seeks information protected by common interest privileges shared by certain plaintiffs in this litigation. Plaintiff also objects to this request because it already is in the possession of Defendants, namely through Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint (ECF No. 49) and/or is duplicative of information already sought in Interrogatory No. 13.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff identifies herself as a former member of the Panther Party and as a current member of the Speech and Debate Team.

INTERROGATORY NO. 16

If you contend that the Waller County Community Center is inaccessible to PVAMU students, please state with specificity each of your factual bases for that contention.

ANSWER TO NO. 16

Plaintiff objects to Interrogatory No. 16 because it erroneously sets forth a contention that Plaintiffs have not advanced in this case and/or mischaracterizes Plaintiffs' contention about the Waller County Community Center as a site for early voting for PVAMU students. Plaintiff also objects to Interrogatory No. 16 as it is unreasonably duplicative of the Plaintiffs' expert-witness reports by Mr. Cooper, Dr. Stein, Dr. Joseph, Dr. Flores, and/or Dr. Flores and/or commissioners court hearing minutes (for example, for October 17, 2018), which address this question and are currently in the possession of Defendants.

Subject to and without waiving Plaintiff's foregoing general and specific objections, Plaintiff responds that her answers are included in Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint (ECF No. 49) and Plaintiffs' Motion and Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 53).

Of Counsel:

/s/ Leah C. Aden

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Counsel for Plaintiffs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on July 29, 2019, I electronically sent a true and correct copy of the foregoing document to all counsel of record in this case.

/s/ Leah C. Aden Leah C. Aden